

IN THE CLAIMS AMEND

1. Littrow grating with a multiplicity of parallel diffraction structures succeeding one another periodically, which are arranged on a support defining a base area and each incorporate a blaze flank inclined towards the base area substantially at the Littrow angle and a counter-flank, wherein the blaze flank and the counter-flank form at the apex of a diffraction structure an apex angle which is less than 90°,

characterised in that

(B) the counter-flank (6) comprises at least two substantially plane area sections (7, 8) which, bordering one another and inclined relative to one another by an angle of inclination (β), extend parallel with the extension direction of the diffraction structure (3), wherein due to the inclination of the at least two area sections (7, 8) relative to one another the counter-flank (6) all in all exhibits a concave surface viewed from the light incidence side, and in that the region of the counter flank where the two substantially plane area sections (7, 8) meet, is lower than the lowest area of the blaze flank.

REMARKS

The Examiner has rejected the application on various bases. Specifically, the Examiner has rejected Claims 1, 3-6, and 10-12 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) based on the contention that those claims are anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 3,045,532, issued to Staunton (Staunton '532). Additionally, the Examiner rejected Claim 2 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) based on the contention that it is unpatentable over Staunton '532, Claims 7 and 8 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) based on the contention that they are unpatentable over Staunton '532 in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,629,804, issued to Tomono (Tomono '804), and Claim 9 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) based on the contention that it is unpatentable over Staunton '532 in view of Tomono '804, in further view of U.S. Patent No. 4,991,937, issued